

FLAW IN METHODS USED BY THE BILLPOSTERS

Corporation Counsel Renders Opinion Construing the Law.

The Police Department has discovered a flaw in the methods used by the Washington Billposting Company in securing signatures for permission to locate billboards. It appears that the company in two instances obtained the signatures of persons concerned, mostly women, by going to the doors of the houses and writing down the names when no objection to the boards was signified.

The papers containing these names were submitted to the Corporation Counsel for an opinion. In part he said: "The Commissioners are empowered by the quoted paragraph of the law to authorize, in writing, the land, houses, billboards, fences, and other structures on which, in their discretion, advertisements or posters may be placed, and then follow the clause relative to the signatures. The question is whether the written signature and consent must be obtained from a majority of the household-

ers only, or a majority of all the inmates of all the houses on the squares mentioned.

"The terms of the law are most general," says Mr. Duval. "A majority of the residents." If this is to be construed literally, then it would include all the inmates of all the houses, irrespective of age or permanency of residence. I cannot believe that this was the intention of Congress in view of the subject-matter and the object sought to be accomplished. Indeed, it would be quite impracticable to administer this law on any such basis. I am of the opinion that a reasonable construction of the provision would be to limit it to a majority of the householders on the side of the square in which the display is to be made, and also the side of the adjoining square. Such a construction, in my judgment, would not do violence to the terms of the law, and would render it capable of practical administration."

FRIENDS OF MORRISONS HOPE FOR A REUNION

Believe Stories Were Circulated by Designing Persons for a Purpose.

Mutual friends of Frank Morrison, the popular secretary of the American Federation of Labor, and his wife are hopeful that efforts now being made to effect a reconciliation between them will be successful, and the suit for divorce instituted by Mr. Morrison withdrawn. It is said by friends of the couple that the stories which led Mr. Morrison to seek a divorce were without foundation, and were circulated, it is believed, in the first instance by designing persons to bring about a separation. If such was their case, they succeeded admirably.

Mrs. Morrison, however, denies that there was ever any marriage ceremony between her and G. M. Day, as alleged. She asserts that Mr. Day was never more than a neighbor, and that her husband possesses all her affections.

She believes, with her friends, that the stories of the alleged marriage were circulated for a purpose, and says that Mr. Morrison, who wrote her at frequent intervals while she was absent from the city with the "Faust" company, can readily satisfy himself that she could not have been living here as Mrs. Day or under any other name.

She has come to this city to be near her nine-year-old daughter, who is now in a Washington convent, and feels keenly the stigma which, she says, has been undesignedly cast upon her good name and that of her child.

Mrs. Morrison is well known in musical circles here and in Chicago, and has many friends in both cities, who refuse to believe her culpable or capable of the folly attributed to her.

WILL OF W. F. JOHNSON OFFERED FOR PROBATE

The will of William F. Johnson was offered for probate last yesterday afternoon in the office of the Register of Wills. The document is dated September 18 last, and Titian W. Johnson, Oscar H. Billingsley, and Charles A. Machen are named trustees and executors. The testator directs that the trustees hold his real estate (eighteen brick houses) in trust for the use and benefit of his daughters—Mrs. Oscar H. Billingsley, Falls Church, Va.; Mrs. Charles A. Machen, and his sons—Titian W. and Sullivan V. Johnson. The income from the property is to be divided equally and paid to the beneficiaries, except the share of Sullivan V. Johnson, which is to be deposited with the Washington Savings Bank or some other until he arrives at his majority. The testator expresses a desire that none of the houses be sold until five years after his death. To his grandson, Brent Harrison Parker, of Baltimore, is left a gold watch. The proceeds of his life insurance are to be divided, one-third to Mrs. Billingsley, and the remainder among the other beneficiaries named.

MASONS ELECT OFFICERS.

At the regular meeting of Arminius Lodge No. 25, F. A. A. M., held December 8, the following officers were elected for the ensuing Masonic year: Harry Rothschild, W. M.; Joseph Baesgen, S. W.; Leon Pohlmann, J. W.; Charles Katzenstein, secretary; Henry T. Ries, treasurer; Carl A. Droop, S. D.; George J. Schweppe, J. D.; Adam Schneider, S. S.; Gus W. Wiegand, J. S.; F. W. Spies, M. C.; E. H. Hoyer, organist; John Toense, tyler; Charles Gersdorf, Morris Glaser, Herm. H. Gerdies, proxies to grand lodge; Werner Koch, Henry Klinge, Charles Dimer, finance committee; Charles Katzenstein, delegate to Masonic board of relief; Louis Goldschmidt, delegate to St. John's Mite Association; Harry Rothschild, delegate to German Orphan Asylum; Morris Glaser, chairman instruction committee.

K. OF F. LODGE ELECTION.

Columbia Lodge, Knights of Fidelity, has elected these officers: Past valiant commander, Hugh F. Harvey; valiant commander, Carl Mueller; lieutenant commander, Fred Gerhart; chief orator, Benjamin Beveridge; worthy treasurer, P. F. Carr; corresponding recorder, W. H. Barghausen; financial recorder, George Dietz; master of ceremonies, George Nietz; captain of the guard, James Bryan; grand tyler, R. A. McCoy; grand trustees, Fred Wagner, T. D. Harper, Charles Dietz.

FUNERAL OF A. W. SWEENEY.

The funeral of Arthur W. Sweeney, the carpenter who was accidentally killed at Indian Head yesterday, while at work on one of the electric trucks used for moving the heavy parts of guns and mountings, will be held tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock from Lee's undertaking establishment. Sweeney's body was brought to Washington on the navy yard tug and prepared for burial. Sweeney's home was in Lewis, Del.

NO PROTECTION FOR THE "GALLERY GODS"

Health Department Cannot Force Theater Managers to Lay Carpets on Sidewalks.

The Health Department of the District has sent a reply to Lieut. R. B. Rodney, paymaster of the United States Navy, who recently communicated with this department, asking if theater managers or proprietors could not be compelled to lay a covering on the sidewalk where patrons of the gallery were forced to stand in line in order to gain admission. Lieutenant Rodney further said that this exposure was a menace to the health of the people, and inquired if there was a law which could force managers to remedy the condition.

The reply was made by Deputy Health Officer H. C. McLean, and read as follows: "In reply to your letter of the 3d instant, asking whether this department can require theater managers to lay strips of matting on sidewalk for people to stand on who are compelled to wait at the entrance of the gallery, have the honor to inform you that there is no law or health regulation that vests this department with authority to require that action."

MUST WAIT SIX MONTHS FOR NEW PENSION CHECK

Veteran's Grandson Makes Cigarettes of Pay Warrant—Seeks Immediate Reissue.

Levi W. Huffman, of Alexandria, Va., a civil war veteran, was a caller at the Treasury Department yesterday. His grandson, Ned Hall, aged four, used, he alleges, the old soldier's pension check, amounting to \$125, for a "play cigarette" December 5, and Mr. Huffman wanted a duplicate to be issued at once. The statutes, however, provide that duplicate checks shall be issued only after six months have elapsed. Mr. Huffman says he can prove the destruction of his check, and says that as he is badly in need of the money, the delay is an unwarranted hardship.

SAVINGS BANK REPORT.

The report of the auditing committee of the Capital Savings Bank will not be ready before December 15, when it will be submitted to the board of directors. Cashier E. B. McCarty and his assistants are now busy on the books. The bank, located at 609 F Street north-west, recently served notice on its stockholders that sixty days' notice would be required from those wishing to withdraw their accounts.

TO INSTALL PASTOR.

The installation of the Rev. William Hart Dexter as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Takoma Park, will take place tonight at 7:30 o'clock. Many prominent ministers are expected to be present at the exercises.

OLD FOGY KNEW.

Experience Teaches People.

"My parents considered coffee simply a harmless beverage for old and young, so when a mere baby I commenced to drink it, and when I reached womanhood, found myself troubled with nervousness, headache, and an irritable temper, and to obtain relief I drank more and more coffee, thus adding fuel to the fire.

"I grew worse until life was one black night of pain. My nerves were shattered, body wracked with suffering, my stomach gave out, and utterly refused to digest the most simple foods, and finally I lay for weeks starving and longing for food, but unable to eat more than just enough to keep me alive.

"While in this state, my next door neighbor brought in a fragrant cup that I supposed was some new grade of coffee, and although I had suffered so terribly from its effects, the temptation was too strong to resist, and I drank it with relish. I noticed it had a rich agreeable taste, and I drank it without distress. She repeated the kindness two or three mornings.

"I began to congratulate myself that it was not coffee that hurt me after all. I was assuring my friend of this one day when she astonished me by saying that I was not drinking coffee, but a pure food drink called Postum Food Coffee, made from nourishing grain for building up the system and nerves instead of tearing them down.

"I then began to drink Postum regularly, and to get well slowly but surely. Today I am a strong, hearty woman; my nervous system is entirely rebuilt, and with a reserve force of strength in time of need; I sleep well and awake refreshed and feel bright for each day's task, with no indigestion or stomach trouble, and a good, strong active brain ready for any mental strain or toil. There is no doubt on earth that coffee nearly killed me.

"A friend of mine was obliged to resign her position as school teacher because of extreme nervousness caused by coffee drinking. I induced her to use Postum in place of coffee, and at the end of four months she began teaching again, her nervousness gone, and feeling and looking ten years younger; her sallow complexion having become a beautiful, healthy bloom." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

CITIZENS DISCUSS STREET EXTENSION

Mount Pleasant Association Holds Monthly Session.

Questions pertaining to the extension of Sixteenth Street were considered at the meeting of the Mount Pleasant Citizens' Association last night. The association met at the Hotel Stratford, Col. E. B. Townsend presiding.

After a full discussion of the matter a special committee was appointed to go before the committee of Congress, in behalf of the association, and secure, if possible, the sum of \$50,000 for beginning the improvement of Sixteenth Street extended. The members of the Mount Pleasant Association, many of them property holders along the line of this thoroughfare, are anxious that Sixteenth Street extended should be more than two lines on the District map. They want the physical opening of the Avenue to follow immediately upon the legal proceedings incident to its opening commenced this year. The committee referred to is composed of Col. E. B. Townsend, Louis P. Shoemaker and R. Holman.

To Renumber Houses. A resolution was proposed by T. H. Syphard and adopted, in substance, that the opening of Sixteenth Street makes peculiar angles with Kenesaw Avenue, and that the municipal authorities be requested to renumber the houses to prevent confusion.

The committee appointed at the last meeting to investigate the plan of parking Sixteenth Street through the center reported that nothing definite had been determined by the Commissioners. Frederick Law Olmsted, of the Senate Park Commission, has the matter under consideration, and until his report is submitted, the committee said it would be impossible to say what course would be pursued.

FOURTEENTH STREET CARS.

Mr. Shoemaker submitted a resolution with reference to the switching and parking of cars at the Fourteenth Street terminus of the Capital Traction Company's lines. The resolution called for the extension of the tracks further north to Lydecker Avenue, and the removal of the switching arrangements to that point. The resolution included a request that the Commissioners pave Fourteenth Street northwest to Park place.

Judge E. B. Stocking, J. J. Duffy, and Norton M. Little were elected members of the association.

BIBLE CLASS CELEBRATION.

The third anniversary of the Metropolitan Bible Class was celebrated with a banquet last evening in the parlors of the Metropolitan Memorial Church, on G Street northwest. There were about 150 persons present. H. C. Oberholzer, president and organizer of the class, which was established three years ago, acted in the capacity of toastmaster. Addresses were made by Andrew S. Mitchell, who spoke on "The Occasion," Lyman L. Pierce, of the Y. M. C. A., "The Young Men," William C. Eldridge, "The Ladies." These were followed by an interesting talk on "Personal Influence" by the Rev. Don S. Colt, pastor of Grace M. E. Church, Baltimore.

VOLUNTARY BANKRUPTCY.

A petition in voluntary bankruptcy has been filed in the District branch of the Supreme Court of the District by James C. King, who says he is willing and ready to surrender all his property for the benefit of his creditors. Mr. King until recently was engaged in the lumber business. He lists his liabilities at \$10,988.67, and makes no return of assets. The greater part of his indebtedness is due merchants in Baltimore.

EXHIBITION OF COSTLY PETS ATTRACTS CROWDS

Poultry and Pigeon Association Prospers.

The annual exhibition of the Washington Poultry, Pigeon, and Pet Stock Association in Masonic Temple, Ninth and F Streets northwest, is attracting large crowds. There are a thousand or more specimens of chickens, pigeons, guinea pigs, ducks, geese, turkeys, and cats, on show in the main hall and annex. Coops and pens are everywhere, and the managers of the show declare they have been compelled to turn away more than a thousand entries owing to the lack of space.

Hundreds of pens are labeled with the name or class of the occupants, their breed, and the owner's name. A pyramid of wire has been erected in the center of the hall. In this a local exhibitor has placed his collection. Black swan, Chinese ducks, pheasants, native wood ducks, and African and Toulouse geese are placed in the lowest apartment of the pyramid. Up at the top of the coop a tiny pointer pigeon has been placed. George E. Howard says that while there are about a thousand fowls on exhibition, some of the species have two or three representatives.

The managers believe they have picked out the best possible specimens, and that the show has suffered no loss because of the lack of space for the others. The display of pigeons is the best ever seen here. There are about 200 on show. E. L. Barclay & Sons have the largest number of entries.

The guinea pigs, Belgian hares, ferrets, and last but by no means least, the cats, are seen in great numbers in the annex. There is one tabby, "Baby," which hails from North Natick, Mass., and is valued at \$1,000 by the owner. The costly feline aristocrat is a dainty little bit of a cat, white and tortoise shell color. "Baby" has won prizes in Boston, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Rochester, Hartford, and Providence.

A white, short-haired cat, which weighs all of thirty pounds, also attracts attention. "Beauty" is more than two feet long, and is as big around as a stovepipe. Its head is as large as a two-year-old baby's. Miss Ethel R. Bevil Champlin, of London, England, will be the judge in the cat department. She says "Beauty" is the largest cat she has seen exhibited since she began to fancy felines.

The show will continue three days. It promises to be the most successful one held by the association, and it is not only a most unique affair but it also bids to be a success from the exhibitors' point of view.

MEADE POST ELECTION.

There was a large attendance at the annual election of George G. Meade Post, No. 5, G. A. R., in Grand Army Hall last night. The election resulted as follows: L. H. Patterson, commander; A. A. Maxim, senior vice commander; Alfred Shaw, junior vice commander; Charles Matthews, quartermaster; Rev. Henry S. Stevens, chaplain; Dr. T. L. Matchett, surgeon; E. A. Wilber, officer of the guard; Calvin Farnsworth, trustee. Delegates to department encampment, Robert H. Marcellus, Charles Matthews, E. A. Wilber, Alfred Shaw, W. M. King, C. B. Haring, Judge C. F. Scott, and P. A. Roderick. Alternates, Charles F. Garnette, W. R. Ramsey, J. J. Bain, Peter S. Lesh, Asaph Dodge, Albert Carey, John Riley, and P. P. Siebold. Encouraging remarks from the officers-elect followed.

Through Buffet Drawing Room Sleeper

Washington to Cleveland, Via Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, leaves Washington 8:45 p. m. daily.

NOVEMBER WORK OF FIRE DEPARTMENT

Estimated Loss During the Month \$12,994 on Property Insured for \$499,265.

R. W. Dutton, Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, has submitted to the District Commissioners his report of operations for the month of November. It shows that the department in that period responded to 49 regular alarms, 3 of which were false, the 37 fires for which they were sounded causing an estimated loss of \$12,701, the property bearing an insurance of \$245,965. The department also answered 49 local or silent alarms, 5 of which were false. The thirty-five fires occasioning them resulted in an estimated loss of \$233,000, the property involved being insured for \$163,300. The total estimated loss for the month was \$12,994.

Forty-four of the 72 fires occurring during the month were in brick structures, 22 in frame buildings, 2 in stone, 1 was the burning of brush, 1 of rubbish in an alley, while the other 2 were in steam carriages. In one case fire traveled from one shed to the adjoining one, in two cases to the adjoining, in one instance fire traveled from one floor to the one above and to the adjoining building, and in another from one room to an adjoining one.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY Take Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets. This signature is on every box, 25c.



CHRISTMAS BREAD.

—specially baked from the finest, choicest, and sweetest flour made. We will have on hand during the holiday season, besides Xmas Cakes, mince and Pumpkin Pies—fat, thick, and luscious—a kind of Pastry, made from the choicest ingredients and by skilled bakers, that will be a treat for the dainty palate.

Holmes & Sons, Bakery, Corner First and E Streets, PHONE, EAST 864.

WASHINGTON DRESSED BEEF and SOUTH-DOWN LAMB

AT THE STALLS OF THOS. T. KEANE & SONS, 34 to 51 Center Market No. 9 Wholesale Row. Inspection cordially invited without obligation to purchase.

WE WILL TRUST YOU

See Our Stock of Fine Furs. Elegant Fur Scarfs From 98c up.

Ladies' Tailor-made Suits From \$11.98 up.

Just received another lot of these Oil Heaters at our own price. We will give you one exactly like cut for \$4.48

Fine Mahogany Music Cabinet, door front, finely finished, best construction, only \$5.50

Boys' Suits Made of Cassimeres and Cheviots. Sizes 7 to 16 years. \$3.50 Values for \$1.98.

Boys' Overcoats Made Man Style. Extra Long. Sizes 8 to 16 years. \$3.98.

Handsome line of Xmas Rockers. This fine one for \$1.98.

Oak Combination Desk and Book Case, exactly like cut, French bevel plate mirror, pigeonholes in desk; adjustable shelves in book case; our price, \$9.98

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"The Busy Corner"

Always the best of everything for the least money.

Toyville Turned Loose.

What a time the big folks and little ones are having in this department. Everything is spread out on the Fourth Floor in great style. What a wonderful world this Toy Store of ours presents. All brought here by Santa Claus from his Arctic Home, to be distributed among the children of Washington and the surrounding vicinity. We have dolls that will do almost everything but breathe. Mechanical Toys that work as perfectly as the machinery which drives the world. In fact, everything can be found here which will make the most dissatisfied child happy.

Complete set of Tools like this cut for 49c

Strong Built Stable, like cut, for 49c

Set of Blocks, like cut, for 25c

Child's Rocking Horse, like cut, for \$1.25

Full Size Drum, like cut, for 49c

Columbia washing machine, like cut, for 75c

Regular Cooking Range, like cut, for \$1.25

Automobile, complete, same as cut, for 49c

Doll's Dress Suit Case, like cut, for \$1.49

Doll, like cut, for \$1.98

Complete Farm Wagon, like cut, for \$7.48

Upright Engine, perfectly harmless, like cut, for 98c

Saratoga Trunks, like cut for \$1.98

Bureau, like cut, for 25c

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All these and a hundred thousand more of all kinds of Toys on sale in our Toy Department, 2d and 4th floors. Make your selections now, pay a small deposit, and have them delivered when you want them.

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